

valuable than any numbers could ever show. The men and women who work to get it are heroes and deserve our help to help themselves.

DRUG COMPANIES STEAL AND ROB FROM OUR SENIOR CITIZENS

(Mr. BERRY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, in the 1st Congressional District of Arkansas, the greatest health care problem we have is the fact that this government, this Congress, this majority, this President has made it possible and even more able for the drug companies to steal and rob from our senior citizens. It is an incredible act, the Medicare reform that was passed. That is the only thing it accomplished, was make it possible so that the drug companies could continue to rob and steal from the American people.

In Arkansas, we usually think of thieves as coming in the dark of night or committing a violent act to steal your property, but now, because of the Medicare Reform Act and these Medicare cards, we have made it possible for the drug companies to steal, cheat and rob our senior citizens without hardly putting out any effort, and we have created so much confusion that it is an easily accomplished act. It is time to put an end to this.

ENERGY REFORM LEGISLATION

(Mr. SHIMKUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, last week, an article in Biofuels Journal stated that, according to a new report by economist John Urbanchuk, motorists would be facing much higher gasoline prices, an additional 30 cents per gallon, were it not for the growing ethanol industry adding billions of gallons to U.S. fuel supplies.

Without ethanol, our country would be even more reliant on foreign imports of gasoline, and the pain at the pump would be much more severe. More than 30 percent of all U.S. gasoline is blended with ethanol. Without ethanol, refiners would be forced to import about 217,000 barrels per day of high-octane, clean-burning gasoline blending components.

Over the last 25 years, while no new U.S. refineries have been built and scores have been closed, 78 new ethanol plants have been built and 10 more are under construction today.

Ethanol use will bolster U.S. gasoline supplies by more than 3.3 billion gallons in 2004 alone.

We need the Senate to pass H.R. 6, the first comprehensive energy legislation Congress has put forth in years. It will increase our use of renewable fuels like ethanol and biodiesel and reduce our continued overdependence on foreign oil.

VETERANS 2006 CUTS

(Mr. ROSS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, this past weekend our Nation came together and honored the thousands of veterans who have dedicated and sacrificed so much to protect our national security. I had the privilege and honor to join World War II veterans here on our Nation's Mall in Washington, D.C., for the dedication of the World War II Memorial, to honor them and their many contributions to our great democracy and, yes, to remember the 400,000 who died during World War II.

At a time when a new generation of veterans is being created in Iraq and Afghanistan, there are some in Congress who want to cut funding for veterans. The administration's proposed budget for 2006 would cut \$900 million from the Veterans' Administration. A loss of \$900 million would force the VA to disenroll 140,000 veterans and lay off about 10,750 full-time employees, among many other things.

It is all about priorities. We must keep our promises to our veterans.

PARTIAL BIRTH ABORTION BAN

(Mr. MILLER of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, yesterday a Clinton-appointed Federal judge in California granted a permanent extension or injunction against the partial birth abortion ban that was passed by the Congress and signed by President Bush. This is not surprising, since Judge Phyllis Hamilton made it crystal clear that she was ideologically opposed to the ban on partial birth abortion. What is outrageous and defies sound reason is that she found the ban unconstitutional.

In acting to prevent this hideous practice, the elected branches of our government affirmed a basic standard of humanity, the duty of the strong to protect the weak. Partial birth abortion is cruel and inhumane. This is the widespread agreement amongst men and women on this issue, regardless of their political affiliations.

Life cannot be granted or denied by government, elected officials or judges abusive of their interpretive function. Judge Hamilton's ruling is yet another example of activist courts gone wild and is the next decision in the domino effect of legislating from the Federal bench.

I join with our President and will vigorously defend this law against judges who would construe it in contravention to our Constitution and the American public.

AFFORDABLE PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

(Mr. EMANUEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, the Health and Human Services rolled out a new Medicare drug card. Yet, today, seniors across America are still wondering when we in Congress will take real steps to help them afford the drugs they need and are prescribed.

The manufactured chaos, confusion and consternation all could have been avoided. This mess was created by their government and by the special interests, but we have an opportunity to open markets and allow for importation of safe, affordable drugs from Canada and Europe, where prices are 50 percent cheaper than they are here in the United States; real competition to bring prices down, not competition by the special interests between themselves, but competition that allows seniors the choice to pick on affordable prices that are 50 percent cheaper than what they are in Canada and Europe. We need that competition here at home.

A Families USA study showed that seniors in America pay four times the rate of inflation for prescription drugs. Prices have gone up 22 percent in the last 3 years alone.

This discount card is just like a sale at Neiman Marcus. Prices get jacked up 30 percent right before they offer you a 10 percent discount. We need to allow seniors access to affordable drugs their doctors prescribe.

WE HAVE PROGRESS IN IRAQ

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, amidst the violence and struggle that always attends the transition between tyranny and liberty, we have progress in Iraq.

Yesterday, a Shiite Muslim, part of a population that suffered for 30 years under the iron fist of Saddam Hussein, a Shiite Muslim, Iyad Allawi, was named prime minister along with Ghazi al Yawar, a Sunni Muslim, and those two men will lead a free and democratic Iraq.

Mr. Allawi said memorably, in this country that was torn by tyranny for three decades, that he was pledged to establishing a democratic and federal system under which people enjoy free citizenship in a state of laws and freedom. A quagmire, hardly. Difficult, yes. But an ethnically diverse country coming together under the rule of law and democracy is genuine progress in Iraq and worthy of celebrating in this Congress.

PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

(Ms. SOLIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1